

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /058 W

----- 044810

R 170915Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7772

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4014

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILL, JA, TW

SUBJECT: JAPANESE GENERALS VISITING TAIWAN

REF: TAIPEI 1639

1. JDA PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVDIR WAS STARTLED BY EMBOFF'S RECOUNTING OF CHINA POST STORY IN REFTEL. HE SUPPOSED THAT BECAUSE GENERAL MATSUMAI, FORMER CHIEF OF AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN AVIATION BUSINESS CIRCLES SINCE HIS RETIREMENT ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO, THE SEA TOUR WAS BEING SPONSORED BY BUSINESS INTERESTS. IN ANY CASE, JDA WAS NOT INVOLVED IN TRIP AND COULD ONLY ASSUME OTHER GENERALS IN GROUP WERE ALSO RETIRED MILITARY-BUSINESSMEN. OUR FURTHER DIGGING IN JDA HAS UNCOVERED THE PRESENTLY UNVERIFIABLE RUMOR THAT THE SIXTEEN GENERALS, BEING THE REMNANTS OF A GROUP THAT TRAINED CHINAT FORCES ON TAIWAN CIRCA 1949, WERE INVITED BACK BY GOC.

2. FONOFF WAS EQUALLY STARTLED. AFTER CHECKING, CHINA DIVDIR FUJITA INFORMED US THAT REGIONAL POLICY DIVISION HAD
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ARRANGED ASSISTANCE FOR THE GENERALS DURING THEIR SE ASIA

TOUR. SINCE GROUP ASKED FOR NO ASSISTANCE IN TAIWAN, CHINA
DIVISION HAD NEITHER BEEN CONSULTED NOR AWARE OF THE
TAIPEI STOPOVER. VISIT WAS ARRANGED THROUGH PRIVATE CHANNELS.

3. NEVERTHELESS, EVEN THOUGH THE GENERALS ARE INDEED RETIRED,
FUJITA SAID THAT THE VISIT AND THE GENERALS' REPORTED
REMARKS COULD PROVE EMBARRASSING FOR THE GOJ. IF SOCIALISTS,
HE SAID, LEARN OF VISIT (WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN ANY REPORTS IN
JAPANESE PRESS), THEY MAY WELL ATTACK THE GOJ IN THE DIET.
SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, FONOFF WILL RESPOND THAT THE TAIWAN
VISIT IS PRIVATE AND THE GOJ HAS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
BECAUSE EMBARRASSMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN GREATLY COMPOUNDED IF
SUBJECT CAME UP UNEXPECTEDLY IN DIET, FUJITA EXPRESSED
GREAT APPRECIATION WE ALERTED HIM TO THE VISIT. IN CONCLUSION,
FUJITA RECONFIRMED THAT GOJ POLICY CIRCUMSCRIBING OFFICIAL
TRAVEL TO TAIWAN IS UNCHANGED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO04014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760100-0723
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760349/aaaabrgn.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TAIPEI 1639
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE GENERALS VISITING TAIWAN
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, JA, TW, (MATSUMAI, MATSUO)
To: STATE TAIPEI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006